**[Pine Hill Library News](http://laurieryan.edublogs.org/)**

For students, parents & teachers

[**Library Update…**](http://laurieryan.edublogs.org/2012/05/15/library-update/)

It has been a busy time here in the Pine Hill Library! This has been such a great year with many new, fun projects and lots of hard work from students.

The kindergarten classes spent many library classes learning about traditional literature, specifically folktales and fables. We read several versions of *The Little Red Hen*, including my favorite, *Cook-a-doodle-doo* by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel. We are now connecting what students are learning about Kenya with African folktales and fables and looking at some informational texts about Kenya.

First graders completed their Woodland Animal research project. Students also compared and contrasted two different versions of *Chicken Little*. We then spent time looking at this years Caldecott Award winners. In our library classes we have been talking about books that are “just right” for students and I have been highlighting different sections of the library to help students “expand their horizons” as they look for good books to read.

Second grade has had a research focus to their library curriculum. Students have been exploring encyclopedias, the traditional print volumes, and used that knowledge to research frogs and toads. They will then take the facts they collected and compare and contrast frogs and toads and work on a fun project using their research with Mrs. Bien-Aime in the computer lab .

Third graders have also been working on learning research skills. Students used a web site to find information about an endangered animal and create a fact sheet about it. The third graders were so enthusiastic about this topic that each class elected to adopt an endangered animal. Now students are gathering information about a National Park and will use it to create a commercial about the park.

Fourth and fifth graders have been busy responding to posts about reading on our [Pine Hill Library’s Reading blog](http://kidblog.org/Library197/). It’s been fun to read all of the comments about great books and authors that students shared.

The fourth graders are wrapping up a research project studying the planets. The final activity is for students to create an alien that could possibly survive on their planet based on the environmental factors they discovered. The aliens will be posted as you enter the library in “Alien Alley.”

Fifth graders created a video about the Dewey Decimal system to teach other students how our library is organized. They are now working on a short biographical research project in which they will compare some resources and create a project to teach the rest of us about the person they studied.

Outside of library classes I have been involved in several classroom projects. I have had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Ryan’s 4th grade class on their traditional literature and poetry reading and writing units. I am also currently working with a small group of Mrs. Mealey’s students to learn more about immigration and then create a project to share what they learn with other 4th graders. I worked with Ms. Ritchie’s students to create a wiki to share information about the explorers they studied. I’ve also wrapped up a project that I worked on with a group of 5th graders. We planted and observed a tulip garden throughout the year and in the process learned more , and reviewed, what students knew about plants.

As I said, the library has been a busy place! I want to thank my wonderful team of volunteers organized by Catherine Rocchio. They make it possible for me to work on in depth projects with the students. Thanks also to Jeanne Yee, our wonderful Pine Hill aide, who always finds time to help me with the behind the scenes library work. Jeanne will be retiring at the end of this year and we wish her all the best!